

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Tennessee Koyo Steering Systems
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Recovering Used Oil Adds To Operating Profit

The Member

Tennessee Koyo Steering Systems Co. (TKS) has been in operation at their Monroe County Vonore, TN site since 1989. The facility of 345,000 sq ft and 800 employees is located on property adjoining Lake Tellico. Currently the facility produces over 8,000 rack and pinion steering systems per day for domestic and international original equipment auto manufacturers. Tennessee Koyo is ISO 14000 certified and has a very positive attitude toward environmental management and protecting the environment. Tennessee Koyo is committed to complying with environmental laws, regulations, and other requirements and to continually improving their environmental performance. Additionally facility management is focused on maintaining a clean and safe work environment.



The Story

Management of Tennessee Koyo is committed to maintaining a safe and clean work environment for the employees. Strategically located throughout the facility, mops and buckets of water and cleaner are utilized frequently to keep the work stations clean and safe of oil residue on the floors. Historically, the mixture of mop water and used oil was hauled away from the site and incinerated at a high cost because of the low BTU value. Although the

approach is effective, it did not yield the result the environmental management team felt was possible when establishing goals and objectives for the facility.

The Success

Tennessee Koyo has acquired vacuums to collect the oil at the point of use and set up 250-gallon temporary collection stations (bulk totes) where the vacuums are emptied when full. Used oil in the 250-gallon totes is transferred to a main holding tank that is pumped by the hauler when full. Now instead of mopping up all spills and residue, the employee vacuums all oil possible and then mops the area to finalize the cleaning. As a result of these two process changes, a high percentage of used oil is recovered without water contamination and less water is required because it lasts longer when not contaminated with oil.

The Pollution Prevented

For the six-month period ending October 2004, an average of 1,529 gallons per month of used oil was diverted from the mop water waste stream as compared to the comparable period in 2003. In 2003, 12,480 gallons of used oil was recycled and year to date through October 2004 24,185 gallons of used oil has been recycled. That is an increase of 1,378 gallons per month recycled with a slight increase in business. With used oil selling for \$0.12 per gallon, the facility will recognize an additional \$2,202 per year in revenue, plus an avoidance of \$4,771 in disposal costs yielding an overall savings of \$6,973 while providing a cleaner facility and more environmentally friendly environment.

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